

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims in this application, reflects all changes currently being made to the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and all earlier listings of the claims:

Claim 1. (currently amended): An information processing apparatus which manages a first shared device, comprising:

~~management means for managing information of a first shared device managed by said information processing apparatus;~~

~~selection means for selecting a group comprising a plurality of devices including the first shared device and a second shared device managed by another information processing apparatus;~~

determination means for determining which information processing apparatus manages the second shared device selected by said selection means;

~~reception means for receiving information of the second shared device included in the group selected by said selection means from the other information processing apparatus~~  
determined by said determination means, the received information including information of the second shared device comprising an updated status and a connected condition;

recognition means for recognizing whether at least one of the first and second shared devices has been updated regarding its status, in accordance with the information received by said reception means;

renewal means for updating the information on the status ~~and/or~~ or a connected condition of the second shared device in accordance with a recognition result made by said recognition means; and

display means for displaying the information on the status ~~and/or~~ or the connected condition of the first shared device and the second shared device updated by said renewal means and the information of the first shared device ~~managed by said management means~~ on a same screen of said display means,

wherein the displayed information on the first shared device is updated and the information on a third shared device which is managed by said information processing apparatus but not selected by said selection means is not updated.

Claim 2. (currently amended): An information processing apparatus which manages a first shared device according to claim 1, wherein said reception means includes first reception control means for designating a ~~group~~ shared device satisfying a predetermined condition and receiving the information of the shared device ~~included in the group~~.

Claim 3. (currently amended): An information processing apparatus which manages a first shared device according to claim 1, wherein said reception means includes second reception control means for detecting a log-on operation of another information processing apparatus to the network system and receiving the information of the shared devices managed by the other information processing apparatus.

Claim 4. (currently amended): An information processing apparatus which manages a first shared device according to claim 1, wherein said reception means is adapted, at a log-on operation to the network system, to automatically receive the information of the plurality of shared devices present on the network system.

Claims 5 and 6. (canceled)

Claim 7. (currently amended): An information processing apparatus which manages a first shared device according to claim 1, wherein said renewal means is adapted, in response to the detection of a log-off operation of another information processing apparatus from the network system, to invalidate the information of the shared devices managed by the other information processing apparatus.

Claim 8. (canceled)

Claim 9. (currently amended): An information processing method comprising:  
~~a management step, of managing information of a first shared device managed by the information processing apparatus;~~  
a selection step, of selecting ~~a group comprising a plurality of devices including the first shared device and~~ a second shared device managed by another information processing apparatus;

renewal means for updating the information on the status ~~and/or~~ or a connected condition of the second shared device in accordance with a recognition result made by said recognition means; and

display means for displaying the information on the status ~~and/or~~ or the connected condition of the first shared device and the second shared device updated by said renewal means and the information of the first shared device ~~managed by said management means~~ on a same screen of said display means,

wherein the displayed information on the first shared device is updated and the information on a third shared device which is managed by said information processing apparatus but not selected by said selection means is not updated.

Claim 2. (currently amended): An information processing apparatus which manages a first shared device according to claim 1, wherein said reception means includes first reception control means for designating a group shared device satisfying a predetermined condition and receiving the information of the shared device ~~included in the group~~.

Claim 3. (currently amended): An information processing apparatus which manages a first shared device according to claim 1, wherein said reception means includes second reception control means for detecting a log-on operation of another information processing apparatus to the network system and receiving the information of the shared devices managed by the other information processing apparatus.

Claim 4. (currently amended): An information processing apparatus which  
manages a first shared device according to claim 1, wherein said reception means is adapted, at a  
log-on operation to the network system, to automatically receive the information of the plurality  
of shared devices present on the network system.

Claims 5 and 6. (canceled)

Claim 7. (currently amended): An information processing apparatus which  
manages a first shared device according to claim 1, wherein said renewal means is adapted, in  
response to the detection of a log-off operation of another information processing apparatus from  
the network system, to invalidate the information of the shared devices managed by the other  
information processing apparatus.

Claim 8. (canceled)

Claim 9. (currently amended): An information processing method comprising:  
~~a management step, of managing information of a first shared device managed by~~  
~~the information processing apparatus;~~  
a selection step, of selecting ~~a group comprising a plurality of devices including~~  
~~the first shared device and~~ a second shared device managed by another information processing  
apparatus;

a determination step, of determining which information processing apparatus manages the second shared device selected in said selection step;

a reception step, of receiving information of the second shared device ~~included in the group~~ selected in said selection step from the other information processing apparatus determined in said determination step, the received information including information of the second shared device including an updated status and a connected condition;

a recognition step, of recognizing whether at least one of the first and second shared devices has been updated regarding its status, in accordance with the information received in said reception step;

a renewal step, of updating the information on the status ~~and/or~~ or a connected condition of the second shared device in accordance with a recognition result made in said recognition step; and

a display step, of displaying on display means the information on the status ~~and/or~~ or the connected condition of the first shared device and the second shared device updated in said renewal step and the information of the first shared device ~~managed by the information processing apparatus in said management step~~ on a same screen of the display means,

wherein the displayed information on the first shared device is updated and the information on a third shared device which is managed by the information processing apparatus but not selected in said selection step is not updated.

Claim 10. (previously presented): An information processing method according to claim 9, wherein said reception step includes a first reception control step of designating a group

shared device satisfying a predetermined condition and receiving the information of the shared device ~~included in the group~~.

Claim 11. (previously presented): An information processing method according to claim 9, wherein said reception step includes a second reception control step of detecting a log-on operation of another information processing apparatus to the network system and receiving the information of the shared devices managed by the other information processing apparatus.

Claim 12. (previously presented): An information processing method according to claim 9, wherein said reception step includes, at a log-on operation to the network system, automatically receiving the information of the plurality of shared devices present on the network system.

Claims 13 and 14. (canceled)

Claim 15. (previously presented): An information processing method according to claim 9, wherein said renewal step includes, in response to the detection of a log-off operation of another information processing apparatus from the network system, invalidating the information of the shared devices managed by the other information processing apparatus.

Claim 16. (canceled)

Claim 17. (currently amended): A computer readable memory which stores a program to be executed by a computer of an information processing apparatus which manages a first shared device, comprising:

~~code for a management step, of managing information of, a first shared device managed by the information processing apparatus;~~

~~code for a selection step, of selecting a group comprising a plurality of devices including the first shared device and a second shared device managed by another information processing apparatus;~~

code for a determination step, of determining which information processing apparatus manages the second shared device selected by said code for said selection step;

code for a reception step, of receiving information of the second shared device ~~included in the group~~ selected by said code for the selection step from the other information processing apparatus determined by said code for said determination step, the received information including information of the second shared device including an updated status and a connected condition;

code for a recognition step, of recognizing whether at least one of the first and second shared devices has been updated regarding its status, in accordance with the information received by said code for the reception step;

code for a renewal step, of updating the information on the status ~~and/or~~ or a connected condition of the second shared device in accordance with a recognition result made by said code for the recognition step; and



code for a display step, of displaying on display means the information on the status ~~and/or~~ or connected condition of the first shared device and the second shared device updated by said code for the renewal step and the information of the first shared device ~~managed by said code for the management step~~ on a same screen of the display means,

wherein the displayed information on the first shared device is updated and the information on a third shared device which is managed by the information processing apparatus but not selected by said code for said selection step is not updated.

Claim 18. (previously presented): A computer readable memory according to claim 17, wherein said code for the reception step includes code for a first reception control step of designating a ~~group~~ shared device satisfying a predetermined condition and receiving the information of the shared device included ~~in the group~~.

Claim 19. (previously presented): A computer readable memory according to claim 17, wherein said code for the reception step includes code for a second reception control step of detecting a log-on operation of another information processing apparatus to the network system and receiving the information of the shared devices managed by the other information processing apparatus.

Claim 20. (previously presented): A computer readable memory according to claim 17, wherein said code for the reception step includes, at a log-on operation to the network

system, code for automatically receiving the information of the plurality of shared devices present in the network system.

Claims 21 and 22. (canceled)

Claim 23. (previously presented): A computer readable memory according to claim 17, wherein said code for the renewal step includes, in response to the detection of log-off of another information processing apparatus from the network system, code for invalidating the information of the shared of devices managed by the other information processing apparatus.

Claim 24. (canceled)

Claim 25. (currently amended): An information processing apparatus which manages a first shared device, comprising:

~~management means for managing information of a first shared device managed by said information processing apparatus;~~

~~selection means for selecting a group comprising a plurality of devices including the first shared device and a second shared device managed by another information processing apparatus;~~

determination means for determining which information processing apparatus manages the second shared device selected by said selection means;

obtaining means for obtaining information on a status or a connected condition of the second shared device ~~included in the group~~ selected by said selection means from the other information processing apparatus determined by said determination means;

recognition means for recognizing whether at least one of the first and second shared devices has been updated regarding its status ~~and/or~~ or connected condition, in accordance with the information obtained by said obtaining means; and

display means for displaying, on a display of said information processing apparatus, the information on the status ~~and/or~~ or the connected condition of the second shared device, in accordance with a recognition result made by said recognition means, and information on a status ~~and/or~~ or a connected condition of the first shared device, ~~in accordance with the information managed by said management means~~

wherein the displayed information on the first shared device is updated and the information on a third shared device which is managed by said information processing apparatus but not selected by said selection means is not updated.

Claim 26. (previously presented): An apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said display means displays on the display of the information processing apparatus information on the status or the connected condition by icon changes.

Claim 27. (currently amended): An information processing method of an information processing apparatus which manages a first shared device comprising:

~~a management step, of managing information of a first shared device managed by the information processing apparatus;~~

~~a selection step, of selecting a group comprising a plurality of devices including the first shared device and a second shared device managed by another information processing apparatus;~~

a determination step, of determining which information processing apparatus manages the second shared device selected in said selection step;

an obtaining step, of obtaining information on a status or a connected condition of the shared device ~~included in the group~~ selected in said selection step from the other information processing apparatus determined in said determination step;

a recognition step, of recognizing whether at least one of the first and second shared devices has been updated regarding its status ~~and/or~~ or connected condition, in accordance with the information obtained in said obtaining step; and

a display step, of displaying, on a display of the information processing apparatus, the information on the status ~~and/or~~ or the connected condition of the second shared device, and information on a status ~~and/or~~ or a connected condition of the first shared device, ~~in accordance with the information managed in said management step~~

wherein the displayed information on the first shared device is updated and the information on a third shared device which is managed by the information processing apparatus but not selected in said selection step is not updated.

Claim 28. (previously presented): A method according to claim 27, in which said display step includes displaying on the display of the information processing apparatus information on the status or the connected condition by icon changes.

Claim 29. (currently amended): A computer readable memory which stores a program to be executed by a computer of an information processing apparatus which manages a first shared comprising:

~~code for a management step, of managing information of a first shared device managed by the information processing apparatus;~~

~~code for a selection step, of selecting a group comprising a plurality of devices including the first shared device and a second shared device managed by another information processing apparatus;~~

code for a determination step, of determining which information processing apparatus manages the second shared device selected by said code for said selection step;

code for an obtaining step, of obtaining information on a status or a connected condition of the second shared device ~~included in the group~~ selected by said code for the selection step from the other information processing apparatus determined by said code for said determination step;

code for a recognition step, of recognizing whether at least one of the first and second devices has been updated regarding its status ~~and/or~~ or connected condition, in accordance with the information obtained by said code for the obtaining step; and

a display step, of displaying, on a display of the information processing apparatus, the information on the status ~~and/or or~~ the connected condition of a second shared device, in accordance with a recognition result made by said code for the recognition step, and information on a status ~~and/or or~~ a connected condition of the first shared device, ~~in accordance with the information managed by said code for the management step~~

wherein the displayed information on the first shared device is updated and the information on a third shared device which is managed by the information processing apparatus but not selected by said code for said selection step is not updated.

Claim 30. (previously presented): A computer readable memory according to claim 29, in which said display step includes displaying information on the status or the connected condition by icon changes.

Claim 31. (currently amended) An information processing apparatus that manages a first device, comprising:

designation means for designating ~~a group comprising a plurality of devices including the first device~~ and a second device managed by another information processing apparatus;

determination means for determining which information processing apparatus manages the second device designated by said designation means;

obtaining means for obtaining first device information on the first device from the first device, and second device information on the second device ~~included in the group~~

designated by said designation means from the other information processing apparatus  
determined by said determination means; and

display means for displaying a status ~~and/or~~ or a connected condition of the first  
and second devices based on the first device information and the second device information  
obtained by said obtaining means,

wherein the displayed information on the first device is updated and the  
information on a third device which is managed by said information processing apparatus but not  
designated by said designation means is not updated.

Claim 32. (currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 31, further  
comprising:

storage means for storing the first and second device information obtained by said  
obtaining means ~~in correspondence with an attribute of the group designated by said designation~~  
~~means; and~~

specifying means for, when said designation means designates the ~~group~~ second  
device, specifying the first and second device information ~~corresponding to the attribute of the~~  
~~designated group~~ from among a plurality of pieces of device information stored in said storage  
means,

wherein said display means displays the status ~~and/or~~ or the connected condition of  
the first and second devices based on the first device information and the second device  
information specified by said specifying means.

Claim 33. (currently amended) An information processing method of an information processing apparatus that manages a first device, comprising:

a designation step, of designating ~~a group comprising a plurality of devices including the first device~~ and a second device managed by another information processing apparatus;

a determination step, of determining which information processing apparatus manages the second device designated in said designation step;

an obtaining step, of obtaining first device information on the first device from the first device, and second device information on the second device ~~included in the group~~ designated in said designation step from the other information processing apparatus determined in said determination step; and

a display step, of displaying a status ~~and/or~~ or a connected condition of the first and second devices based on the first device information and the second device information obtained in said obtaining step,

wherein the displayed information on the first device is updated and the information on a third device which is managed by the information processing apparatus but not designated in said designation step is not updated.

Claim 34. (currently amended) A method according to claim 33, further comprising:

a storage step, of storing the first and second device information obtained in said obtaining step ~~in correspondence with an attribute of the group designated in said designation~~ step; and



a specifying step, of, when said designation step designates the ~~group~~second  
device, specifying the first and second device information ~~corresponding to the attribute of the~~  
~~designated group~~ from among a plurality of pieces of device information stored in said storage  
step,

wherein said display step displays the status ~~and/or~~ the connected condition of  
the first and second devices based on the first device information and the second device  
information specified in said specifying step.

Claim 35. (currently amended) A computer readable memory which stores a  
program to be executed by a computer of an information processing apparatus that manages a  
first device, comprising:

code for a designation step, of designating ~~a group comprising a plurality of~~  
~~devices including the first device and~~ a second device managed by another information  
processing apparatus;

code for a determination step, of determining which information processing  
apparatus manages the second device designated by said code for said designation step;

code for an obtaining step, of obtaining first device information on the first device  
from the first device, and second device information on the second device ~~included in the group~~  
designated by said code for the designation step from the other information processing apparatus  
determined by said code for said determination step; and

code for a display step, of displaying a status ~~and/or~~ or a connected condition of the first and second devices based on the first device information and the second device information obtained by said code for the obtaining step,

wherein the displayed information on the first device is updated and the information on a third device which is managed by the information processing apparatus but not designated by said code for said designation step is not updated.

Claim 36. (currently amended) A computer readable memory according to claim 35, further comprising:

code for a storage step, of storing the first and second device information obtained by said code for the obtaining step ~~in correspondence with an attribute of the group designated by said code for the designation step~~; and

code for a specifying step, of, when said code for the designation step designates the ~~group~~ second device, specifying the first and second device information ~~corresponding to the attribute of the designated group~~ from among a plurality of pieces of device information stored by said code for the storage step,

wherein said code for the display step displays the status ~~and/or~~ or the connected condition of the first and second devices based on the first device information and the second device information specified by said code for the specifying step.

Claim 37. (new) An information processing apparatus which manages first and second devices, comprising:

selection means for selecting a third device managed by another information processing apparatus;

determination means for determining which information processing apparatus manages the third device selected by said selection means;

reception means for receiving information of the third device selected by said selection means from the other information processing apparatus determined by said determination means; and

display means for displaying the information of the third device received by said reception means and information of the first and second devices managed by said information processing apparatus such that the information of the second device and the information of the first device is displayed in different conditions.

Claim 38 (new) An information processing method, comprising:

selection step, of selecting a third device managed by another information processing apparatus;

determination step, of determining which information processing apparatus manages the third device selected in said selection step;

reception step, of receiving information of the third device selected in said selection step from the other information processing apparatus determined in said determination step; and

display step, of displaying the information of the third device received in said reception step and information of the first and second devices managed by the information

processing apparatus such that the information of the second device and the information of the first device is displayed in different conditions.

Claim 39 (new) A computer readable memory which stores a program to be executed by a computer of an information processing apparatus which manages first and second devices, comprising:

code for a selection step, of selecting a third device managed by another information processing apparatus;

code for a determination step, of determining which information processing apparatus manages the third device selected by said code for said selection step;

code for a reception step, of receiving information of the third device selected by said code for said selection step from the other information processing apparatus determined by said code for said determination step; and

code for a display step, of displaying the information of the third device received by said code for said reception step and information of the first and second devices managed by the information processing apparatus such that the information of the second device and the information of the first device is displayed in different conditions.